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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

BOOK NOTICES.

A Manual of Operative Surgery. By Lewis A. Stimson, B.A., M.D., etc. Philadelphia, Henry C. Lea, 1878. 1 vol. 8vo, cloth. pp. 477.

The inventive genius of surgeons has multiplied operative procedures to so indefinite an extent that the difficulty of selection is apparent to both teachers and students. Dr. Stimson aims, in the present volume—one of moderate size and convenient to handle—to select in each case that procedure which seems the best, and to indicate its variations very briefly; or, if there are methods radically different, to describe the leading one of each case; and further, to secure the much desired brevity by omitting operations which can only be described in general terms, and, also, all those non-essential details with which many writers load their pages. He thus finds room, in a book of the size noted, not only to include all the operations of any prominence in ordinary surgery, but to add a valuable chapter upon operations upon the genito-urinary organs of the female, and one on those of a miscellaneous nature.

From an examination of several passages of his work, we think he has succeeded very well in striking that happy and rarely trodden medium between the unsatisfying meagreness of an epitome, or compend, and the wearying

diffuseness of an elaborate treatise. His language is lucid, and his words are aided by a free use of illustrations, three hundred and thirty-two of which are inserted in the text.

Atlas of the Diseases of the Skin. By Balmanno Squire, M.B., Surgeon to the British Hospital for the Diseases of the Skin, London. J. & A. Churchill, 1878. Part I, 8vo, pp. 89, four plates. Price 10s. 6d.

Mr. Squire has been long and favorably known as a dermatologist. Some ten years ago he issued an atlas of skin diseases, the last wholly original work of the kind attempted in England. It was in folio, and was highly esteemed. Now he introduces the novelty of an atlas in octavo. This size has the advantage of being portable and easily held in ordinary book shelves. Necessarily, however, it does not permit the human face and form to be depicted of full size. This drawback is ingeniously met by the author by enlarging the pathological traits of his subjects to the full size, or even beyond it, while the normal features are reduced. Instruction is thus given, while the demands of art are consulted. No expense has been spared as to the execution of the plates, which are all full-page chromo-lithographs, very accurately colored.

This first part treats of nævus vascularis planus (port wine mark) and psoriasis diffusa. The text is full, and the descriptions and directions for treatment clear and ample. The number of parts of which the atlas is to consist is not stated. It may be ordered through any of the leading American booksellers.

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D. G. BRINTON, M.D., EDITOR.

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REMARKS ON MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

The numerous meetings of medical societies which have been reported in the last few numbers of this journal indicate an increased interest in effective organization by the profession of this country. It cannot too often be repeated that in modern civil society it is only by intelligent organization that men thinking alike can give their thought its act, and achieve the ends which each desires. The epoch of "one man power" is passing away in social life, as it is in government.

"The individual wins, but the race is more and more."

As the objects for which physicians unite are of vast moment to the welfare of the public, so we most earnestly believe that a physician who does not join his county society, or, having joined, takes no interest in its workings,

neglects his duty to the State more than if he shirks his political privileges as a citizen. It is not an imaginary, but a real part of the vocation of a medical man to care for the health of the community as well as its sickness, and to advance, as far as he can, measures of sanitary protection. He never can succeed in this alone. It were arrogance in him to suppose so. He must join with his neighbors in the profession, so that their united voice may, as it certainly will, command the attention of the community.

The influence of every physician among his own families is paramount on all that pertains to his domain; and were there united and determined effort throughout a large majority of the regular medical men in this county, vast and beneficent reforms would be carried through in a very short time.

There are many such reforms of immediate urgency. Every State should have a well supported Board of Health; every county should have its sick poor properly cared for, and not on the cheap auction principle, either; vaccination should be, if not made obligatory, at least very strongly advised; public instruction in hygiene is demanded; the metrical system should be introduced, and many more.

We have not yet referred to the advantages of association to the profession itself. It is hardly necessary to do so. But it is necessary that the public should understand that medical societies have no sort of kinship to trade-unions. It is probable that the formation of fee-bills should be omitted altogether, and each member be left to adjust his own scale of prices. Practically it comes to this, anyhow. But the principles of professional ethics should be insisted upon. Not that, of necessity, the code should be like the law of the Medes and Persians "which altereth not;" but alterations should first receive general assent before they are adopted. The personal advantages arising from good feeling through social intercourse, and of increased knowledge through amicable discussion, are too obvious to need mention.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Alcoholic Amaurosis.

Dr. Arens (*Centralblatt für Heilkunde*) reports the case of a man, thirty years old, in other respects always healthy, who awoke one morning totally blind in both eyes. The patient himself regarded a three days' excessive indulgence in alcohol as its cause. The eyes were widely opened, fixed; the pupils were dilated and immovable; the ophthalmoscopic appearances were normal. The pulse was frequent, soft; the heart was normal. Sensibility and motility were intact in all the extremities. Large doses of Hunyadi János water, rest, diet, and cold water compresses on the head for four days, completely restored the vision.

Electricity in Hydroceles.

In the *Gazeta Medica*, Dr. Macario reports two cases of hydrocele treated by a single application of an electric needle for the space of one minute. One of these cases was permanently cured; the other was only temporarily cured, the disease returning after ten months. In both instances the fluid entirely disappeared in the course of twenty-four hours, though no fluid escaped through the wound made by the introduction of the needle. Macario recommends the employment of this method in other kinds of cysts, especially for ovarian cysts, and cites three cases that have been published as cured by this means.

The Uses of Boldo.

An article in the trade journal, *New Preparations*, on this novelty, sums up its merits as follows:—

From experiments made and the nature of the product, we may now conclude that the boldo is—

1. A most useful and profitable remedy in blennorrhagia.
2. That it produces always good effects in dyspeptic affections, when we recognize as the cause an atony or debility of the digestive organs, or when complicated by bilious disorders.
3. That its administration has been more than once favorable in chronic catarrh of the bladder.
4. That, the boldo, being balsamic and carminative, is an important auxiliary in the treatment of hepatic abscesses, whenever the febrile symptoms have been overcome.

5. That, considering the observations hitherto made in animals, and also a number which have been made in man, it is to be presumed that the boldo is a powerful anthelmintic, which presumption is corroborated by the qualities and the nature of the product.

6. That the decoction of the leaves may also serve very effectively in washing wine-casks, to prevent them from souring; a practice followed by the native farmers since immemorial times.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Dental Department of the University of Pennsylvania.

ED. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER:—

There has come to my notice an anonymous circular, entitled "Higher Education in the University of Pennsylvania," which contains statements which are erroneous and misleading. Without going into detail as to its contents, its object is to show that the graduate of the Dental Department of the University of Pennsylvania can obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine "for an expenditure of less money than is exacted from those who matriculate in the Medical Department," and "by attending two partial courses in medicine in the Dental Department, and one full course in the Medical Department." The paragraph in the advertisement in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* would perhaps admit of such interpretation, but it was introduced without due consideration, immediately after the institution of the Dental Department, and before its complete organization. In the announcement of the Dental Department, and on the last page of the third edition of the Announcement of the Medical Department, it is stated that the Dental student desiring to take the Medical Degree must inform the Secretary of the Department of Medicine of such intention *at or before the beginning of his second course of lectures*. The object of this is so to modify the second course of the Dental students that it may become a full medical course, including Practice of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics, as well as a Dental course.

The fees for the last two courses have also been altered for such candidates so that the Dental graduate who takes the degree in Medicine also, pays \$475; while the student taking the medical degree only, pays \$445.

It would have given me pleasure to have explained the matter to the author of the circular, had he called upon me in relation to it, thus saving him some trouble and expense.

JAMES TYSON,

Secretary Faculty of Medicine,
University of Pennsylvania.

*University of Pennsylvania,
Medical Department, June, 1878.*

NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

Bates County, Mo., Medical Society.

The physicians of Bates County, Mo., met in Butler, Jan. 8th, 1878, and organized a county Medical Society. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—President, O. F. Renick; Vice-President, T. C. Boulware; Secretary, E. A. Lee; Treasurer, N. L. Whipple; Censors, Drs. Whipple and Allen. Committee on By-Laws and Constitution—Drs. Boulware and Lee, to report at the next meeting. Drs. Whipple and Allen were appointed by the President as Essayists for the next meeting.

Law and Medicine.

The grand jury having failed to indict the faculty of the Ohio and Miami Medical College for complicity in the robbery of the grave of Scott Harrison and young Devin, General Harrison and Joseph C. Devin, relatives of the deceased persons, have decided to institute civil suits against the colleges, claiming \$10,000 damages in each case. A similar suit will be brought against the Ann Arbor Medical College. Eminent counsel have been retained, and the suits will be pressed.

The Microphone in Lithotomy.

Recent English journals give an interesting account of the use of the microphone by Sir Henry Thompson, in discovering the existence of stone in the bladder, however small the particle. Sir Henry operated on a patient, in the presence of Mr. Erichsen, Dr. Yandell (of Kentucky), Mr. M. B. Hill, Mr. Clover, Mr. B. Browne, and others. By an application of the same method to the recognition of a bullet or other foreign body, or of diseased bone at the bottom of a deep wound, the microphone may be equally valuable.

Personal.

—Dr. William Fernbach, aged thirty-four, a German physician, died last week, in New York, from an overdose of belladonna, which he had taken on the previous evening to relieve his sufferings from a severe attack of neuralgia. Dr. Fernbach was a physician in very good standing. He was a graduate of the University of Breslau, and seven years ago he was surgeon on board the steamship Hamburg, of the Brazil line.

Items.

—Excavations have begun for the foundations of the Memphis Medical College and Medical Department of the Southwestern Baptist University.

—The New York State Medical Society met at Albany on the 18th instant, and fixed the time for the next annual meeting, as required

by law. The time named is the first Tuesday in February. The society then adjourned until that time.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

Dr. J. D. V.—The most approved work on Hygiene is that of Dr. Parkes, \$6.00.

A Subscriber, Miss.—On Herpin's method of using salts of zinc in Epilepsy, see Napheys' *Medical Therapeutics*, page 50.

Dr. R. B. H.—You had better address the Surgeon General, U. S. A., Washington, for particulars as to the Army Examining Boards. We may say that the examinations are very searching, and no preference is given to particular colleges.

OBITUARY.

DR. GEORGE L. SHEARER.

At a meeting of the York County, Pa., Medical Society, the following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, Death has invaded the ranks of our profession, and one of the oldest of its members in this county has been called the way of all the earth, it is becoming in us to show our respect for the dead and our sympathy for the living.

Dr. Shearer, who graduated at the University of Maryland in 1825, and was engaged in active practice in the same locality for upward of fifty years, died at his residence in Dillsburg, York county, on the 4th of June, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. He was well and favorably known in the county, as an exemplary man and a skillful physician; he was a man of kind heart, of generous impulses, an earnest advocate of the right, and ever ready to relieve suffering, in whatever form it came before him.

Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to this dispensation of Divine will, in removing from our midst our late associate in medicine, and honored member of this Society, we feel that his death is sincerely mourned by the community to whom he had devoted a long and active life of usefulness, and we offer our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

Resolved, That the Secretary forward a copy of these proceedings to the family of the deceased, and also to the *MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER*, in Philadelphia, and the papers in York county, with a request that they be published.

MARRIAGES.

BRANSHOLTS—FRENCH.—In Waynesboro, Pa., May 22d, by the Rev. Samuel McLanahan, Dr. F. S. Bransholts and Samantha, daughter of the late Dr. R. M. French, of Fayetteville, Pa.

HENRY—DODGE—At the residence of Mr. A. W. Allen, Charles City, Iowa, April 18th, 1878, by the Rev. J. S. Anderson, Dr. D. H. Henry, of Nashua, and Miss Gertie Dodge, of Charles City.

PLANK—ROBERTS—On Wednesday evening, June 5th, 1878, at the residence of the bride's parents, Ebensburg, Pa., by the Rev. E. W. Brown, Dr. E. H. Plank, recently of Ebensburg, now of Christiana, Pa., and Miss R. Ella, eldest daughter of Mr. Edward Roberts.

DEATHS.

CUTHELL—At the residence of her brother-in-law, Dr. A. M. Campbell, Mount Vernon, N. Y., Sarah Maria, daughter of the late John and Sarah Cuttell, in her 57th year.

SMITH—At Newark, N. J., on June 15th, 1878, Edward D. G. Smith, M.D., son of the late L. A. Smith, M.D., of the same place.

TALCOTT—On May 31st ult., Fred. C. Talcott, M.D., son of George and Anna B. C. Talcott, aged 27, ears still 10 months.

